

REGIONAL CONSORTIA ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TEACHER PREPARATION

What is a regional consortia alternative route teacher preparation program?

Consortium programs exist in ESD 101 (greater Spokane area) and ESD 105 (greater Yakima area). Each consortium consists of a partnership that includes three to four higher education institutions, the ESD, and districts within that ESD. The goal of the consortia programs is to prepare teachers in shortage areas to take jobs where they currently live. The minimum number of interns for each program is 15; the maximum to be accepted is 30.

The common design features of these programs include:

- A **Summer Academy** during which prior learning and experience are assessed in order to create a **Teacher Development Plan** that identifies program requirements for each candidate. Candidates must be prepared to attend eight two day seminar sessions and participate in school-based experiences with students during June and July.
- A **performance-based mentored internship** of one school year or less. Interns are assigned to work full-time with a mentor teacher in his/her classroom beginning with the first day of school in the district and concluding with the last day. Early exit is an option for interns who complete a minimum of half of the year, provide evidence that verifies that the learner outcomes for the program have been met, and for whom the mentor teacher and consortium program supervisor concur that all program requirements have been met.
- **Formalized learning opportunities** offered by the colleges/universities on or near school/ESD sites, on-line, or via K-20. Interns register for modules with up to four institutions during the course of the summer and first semester/fall- winter quarters of the internship. The modules focus on specific learner outcomes and performance indicators. The delivery of the modules is a combination of face-to-face meetings, on-line opportunities, and interaction via K-20. Interns will create an electronic portfolio that contains evidence related to the program learner outcomes and performance indicators.

Who qualifies to participate in these programs?

1. **Currently employed classified staff, including paraeducators**, with a baccalaureate degree in subject matter shortage areas (special education, mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology, instrumental music, early childhood special education, choral music, English as a Second Language, bilingual, and Japanese) and/or areas of shortage due to geographic location as documented by the partnership districts, AND
 - District validation of qualifications, including three years of successful student interaction and leadership as classified staff;
 - A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;

- Meet the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements for teachers (all candidates must have fingerprint clearance prior to assignment to a classroom); and
 - Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B) and content area test (PRAXIS II) for the endorsement area. Information about the tests and testing schedules may be accessed at www.pesb.wa.gov/
2. **Mid-career professionals** with baccalaureate degrees or higher, who are not employed in the district, or who hold emergency substitute certificates. Priority shall be given to individuals with degrees that qualify them for endorsements in the subject matter shortage areas noted above or identified by partnership districts within the consortia programs. In addition, candidates via this route must have:
- Five years' career work experience;
 - A baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
 - External validation of qualifications, including demonstrated successful experience with students or children, such as reference letters and letters of support from previous employers;
 - Meet the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements for teachers (all candidates must have fingerprint clearance prior to assignment to a classroom); and
 - Successful passage of the statewide basic skills exam (WEST-B) and content area test (PRAXIS II) for the endorsement area. Information about the tests and testing schedules may be accessed at www.pesb.wa.gov/
3. Legislation has been proposed to create another route that would make **individuals teaching with conditional certificates** eligible for participation in alternative route programs. The fate of this legislation should be known by mid March. Should the legislation pass, the criteria for mid-career professionals would also apply to these individuals. Priority would be given to individuals teaching in shortage areas and/or "core academic subjects" as defined by federal legislation (No Child Left Behind).

What will the program cost?

The tuition is one "package price" based on a combination of the different tuition rates of the four institutions that will provide the program. This price is currently being determined and is not expected to exceed \$8,000.

A limited number of \$8,000 conditional loan scholarships will be available. The conditional loan scholarship is a loan that can be forgiven in exchange for teaching service in a designated shortage area. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every two years a recipient teaches in a Washington public school in a shortage area. Failure to meet the service obligation will result in repayment of the loan with interest and fees. It is anticipated that the actual number of conditional loan scholarships available in the regional consortia programs will be identified in mid to late March.

How do I know if the Regional Consortia Alternative Route Program is Right for me?

Given that these programs are performance-based with a clear focus on certification standards, there are some clear expectations for candidates:

- Committed to teaching as a career choice
- Ability to participate in self-directed and independent learning
- Managing one's schedule to permit participation in the Summer Academy
- Managing one's schedule to permit assignment to a classroom every day/all day for the length of the 2004-05 school year
- Qualify for an endorsement in a teaching shortage area (hold a degree in the shortage area or in an area that is very closely related so as to be able to pass the PRAXIS II content test in the endorsement area)
- Committed to seeking and obtaining a teaching position in a district within ESD 101 or ESD 105
- Exhibit strong interpersonal and collaboration skills

How do I Apply for Admission?

If you live in the ESD 101 region, contact Joan Kingrey at (509) 323-3502

If you live in the ESD 105 region, contact Jim Seamons at (509) 454-5317